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Appl. No. 10/014,893  
 Amdt. dated July 23, 2007  
 Reply to Final Office Action mailed May 23, 2007

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 10 were pending in the application at the time of the final examination action. Claims 1 to 10 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Claims 1 to 6 have been amended to make more explicit that which was inherent when the claims were considered as a whole. The resource request itself, as shown in Fig. 43, is sent directly from the user to the resource peer group and is not resent or redirected. The resource request is processed as first received, since it received only once. Applicants respectfully note that in an obviousness rejection, any inherent feature for the invention recited in the Claims is supposed to be considered in the "as a whole" analysis. Accordingly, these amendments do not raise new issues and do not require a further search. Also, as noted below, the claims clearly distinguish over the combination of references and so entry is appropriate under Rule 116. Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendments. If the Examiner should disagree on the allowability of the claims, entry is respectfully requested so as to narrow the issues on appeal.

Claims 1 to 10 remain rejected 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,092,196 to Reiche (hereinafter, Reiche) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,970,904 to Rode (hereinafter, Rode).

Applicants respectfully traverse the obviousness rejection of Claims 1, 3 and 5. As best the rejection is understood, the Examiner is interpreting "a resource server peer group" as the combination of the customer servers and the authentication server in Fig. 1 of Reiche. While this goes against the express teaching of Reiche, because Reiche teaches that it is necessary to send a redirection from the customer server to the client to the authentication server and then from the authentication server to the client to the customer server, it is unnecessary to resolve this issue. The multiple redirects and transfers between the client, the customer server and the authentication server before the customer server processes the

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request teaches that the first request received by the customer server is not processed and the resource provided. Further, the request that results in the customer server providing the resource is not the original resource request itself, but one that has been modified as taught by Reiche.

Reiche, through use of the administrative server and the multiple redirections, teaches away from a resource server peer group that processes a request when it is first received without resort to an authentication server and the multiple redirections.

Applicants note that a secondary reference was cited, but the information in that reference fails to correct the basic deficiencies of the primary reference. Therefore, even if the combination is correct, the combination fails to suggest Applicants' invention as recited in these claims. Further, to maintain the issue, Applicants respectfully submit that the combination is not well founded. The client ID of Reiche does not contain any personal information about the user and so Reiche provided the very feature cited as the motivation for modifying Reiche. Again, when Reiche is considered as a whole Reiche teaches that the motivation for the combination of references is not well founded. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the obviousness rejection of Claims 1, 3, and 5.

Applicants respectfully traverse the obviousness rejection of each of Claims 2, 4, and 6. With respect to Claims 2, 4, and 6, the above comments are applicable and are incorporated herein by reference. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the obviousness rejection of each of Claims 2, 4, and 6.

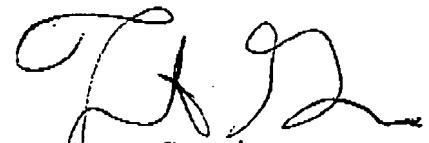
With respect to Claims 7 to 10, these claims distinguish over the combination of references for at least the same reasons as the independent claims from which they depend. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the obviousness rejection of each of Claims 7 to 10.

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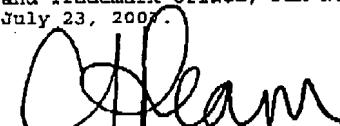
Claims 1 to 10 remain in the application. Claims 1 to 6 have been amended. For the foregoing reasons, Applicant(s) respectfully request allowance of all pending claims. If the Examiner has any questions relating to the above, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned Attorney for Applicant(s).

Respectfully submitted,



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